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## A Psalm of New Wineskins

by Ed Hays

Comfortable and well-worn are my daily paths  
whose edges have grown gray  
with constant use.

My daily speech is a collection of old words  
worn down at the heels  
by repeated use.



My language and deeds, addicted to habit,

prefer the taste of old wine,  
the feel of weathered skin.

Come and awaken me, Sprit of the new.

Come and refresh me, Creator of green life.

Come and inspire me, Risen Son,  
you who make all things new:  
I am too young to be dead,  
to be stagnant in spirit.

High are the walls that guard the old,  
the tried and secure ways of yesterday  
that protect me from the dreaded plague,  
the feared heresy of change.

For all change is a danger to the trusted order,  
the threadbare traditions that are maintained  
by the narrow ruts of rituals.

Yet how can an everlastingly new covenant  
retain its freshness and vitality  
without injections of the new,  
the daring, the untried?

Come, O you who are ever-new,

wrap my heart in new skin,  
ever flexible to be reformed by your Spirit.

Set my feet to fresh paths this day:  
inspire me to speak original and life-giving words  
and to creatively give shape to the new.

Come and teach me how to dance with delight  
whenever you send a new melody my way.

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From *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim* by Ed Hays

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**Prayer action suggestion:**

Experiment with change. Be stretched to new skin.

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